

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXI NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2008

EBARC Meeting

September 12, 2008

7:30 p.m.

"Why Ham Radio Works When All Else Fails"

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets the second Friday of each month
at the Salvation Army, 4600 Applan Way, El Sobrante.

The Executive Board meets the Monday before each general meeting at 7:30 p.m.
at the W6CUS club station, 3200 Macdonald Ave. Richmond.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1393
El Cerrito, CA 94530

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Oct. issue: Tuesday, Sep. 23rd

[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net]

September Meeting's Speaker "Texx" Woodworth, KG6ATH

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, will be our speaker for the September meeting. This time we can leave the slide rules at home. While we all know that "Ham radio works when all else fails", she will explain why this is true. When she gave this talk at Pacificon last year, the room was overflowing into the hall.

General Meeting Minutes August 8, 2008 Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, Secretary

Jack reminded everyone about the 4C's picnic on August 17th. He mentioned that the Grizzly Peak Cycling club sent us a \$300 donation as thanks for the many years our members have helped with communications on their annual century ride.

Bob Bowling said he'd diagnosed the problem with the rotor at the club station as a rusted terminal. He has ordered the part and should

have the repair done soon.

Sharon reported that we had 2 members upgrade their licenses, Russ Wikander and Albert Mossman. We also got three new members from people who had attended one of the recent VE sessions.

Don Hama mentioned that Jack's picture appeared in QST in relation to the proclamation on ham radio that he solicited from the governor. Randy mentioned that Jack and Kyle are also pictured on the Pacificon website.

No reports from the hospitality chair or secretary. The treasurer was absent but Sharon gave his report.

Public Service Opportunities Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

The Marin Amateur Radio Society needs ham operators for the Dipsea Hike and Run on Saturday, September 6. This event benefits Zero Breast Cancer. We need three to five volunteers to staff this event from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Following that, we have the Peak Hike on Sunday, September 21. This event benefits the Breast Cancer Fund. We have been requested to provide five to six operators, including one to two to hike the trail as sweeps. This event runs from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finally, we have The Escape from Alcatraz, a triathlon for the Dolphin Club, on Saturday, October 4. We provide communications for the run (Double Dipsea) portion of the course. We need six to seven volunteers to staff this event. This event runs from around 9:30 a.m. to around 5:30 p.m.

If you are interested and available for any of the above events, please contact Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF (KA6BQF@ARRL.net) or Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ

(davehsau@comcast.net).

The Sonoma Club is looking for assistance for Waves to Wine on Saturday, September 13, and Sunday, September 14. This event benefits the National MS Society, and passes from San Francisco through Marin County on Saturday, continuing into Sonoma County on Sunday. Contact Craig, K6XLT for details or to volunteer (k6xlt@sonic.net).

EBARC Roster Update

UPGRADE: Russell Wikander, KI6CEZ, recently upgraded to General.

UPGRADE: Albert Mossman, KG6VMA, recently upgraded to Extra.

NEW MEMBER: Diana Bauer, KI6QPE, has a Technician license. She lives at 1201 66th St., Oakland, CA 94608. Her email address is dbbuiuc@yahoo.com. She's interested in emergency communications.

NEW MEMBER: Ken Fowler, KO6NO, has an Advanced license. He lives at 2301 Greenridge Dr., Richmond, CA 94803. His email address is ko6no@comcast.net, and his phone is 510-222-0830. He's interested in hardware, antennas, computers, and Boy Scouts.

NEW MEMBER: Trish Mathews, KI6MTA, has a Technician license. Contact her via PO Box 224, Alamo, CA 94507.

Free Vintage Radio

Dee, in El Cerrito, wants to give away a Zenith Wave Magnet Shortwave Special Deluxe radio. It comes in a case. There's no manual, and the year of manufacture is unknown. Contact her at 510-527-7409 if you're interested.

If you receive The Blown Fuse via snail mail, and would like an email copy instead, tell the editor at aa6xz@earthlink.net.

Treasurer's Report June/July 2008 Gordon Parsons, NU6W, Treasurer

JUNE/JULY INCOME

Membership Renewal; KI6EFI (includes donation)	\$40.00
New Member; Katherine Branstetter ..	12.50
Membership Renewal: KG6TT	25.00
Coffee Kitty (June).....	28.00
Coffee Kitty (July)	4.00
Total Jun./Jul. Income.....	\$109.50

JUNE/JULY DISBURSEMENTS

Blown Fuse Printing (May/June)	\$0.61
Blown Fuse Postage (May/June)	15.96
Blown Fuse Printing (July).....	22.53
Blown Fuse Postage (July).....	15.12
AT&T phone (June).....	25.29
AT&T phone (July)	20.27
Total Dec. Disbursements.....	\$100.78
<i>[Ye Olde Editor's calculation yields \$99.78]</i>	

BANK OF THE WEST ACCOUNTS

Checking (General Fund)	\$3,952.29
Savings (Station Fund*)	\$3,302.4?

[Ye Olde Editor couldn't read the last number]

*\$1,169 earmarked for W6CUS Roofing Fund.

Message From: James R. Latham, AF6AQ, ARRL East Bay Section Section Manager

Pacificon 2008 is coming up soon (October 17-19). This is our annual Pacific Division Convention put on by MDARC. MDARC always does a great job, and there are forums of interested for everyone. I encourage you to support the Pacific Division and MDARC by attending this great event. For more information, go to: www.pacificon.org

Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

Future Bay Area Events

- Pacificon 2008, the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, will take place Friday, October 17th through Sunday, October 19th, 2008 at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel at 2600 Bishop Drive in San Ramon, CA . See www.pacificon.org for more information.
- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday of each month at Robertson Park, 7 a.m. to noon, all year. Talk-in 147.045 MHz. Info: Robert 925-560-5646 (h). More info at www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html
- South Bay Electronics Flea Market, 2nd Saturday of each month, March through October, De Anza College, Cupertino. Details at www.asvaro.org. Talk-in on 145.27 MHz (-, 100 Hz PL).
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. The remaining date for 2008 is Oct. 26th. Tests are in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. The 2008 fee (and retest fee) is \$14. For info call 510-846-1587 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo RACES Training: Details at www.cc-races.org or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

The ARRL VC and VCE Programs

[From The ARRL Letter, August 15, 2008]

Invariably, when an amateur wants to erect a tower and more antennas, there will be questions about zoning and building ordinances. According to ARRL Regulatory Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, some questions are simple, while others may lead to a long battle with town officials. "Rule number one in any of these cases," Henderson said, "is to make sure you know the legal landscape you are facing before you start any project."

Henderson said there are many tools to assist amateurs in navigating the perils of zoning and restrictions: "Among the

most important resources are fellow amateurs who have stepped forward to serve as either an ARRL Volunteer Counsel (VC) or an ARRL Volunteer Consulting Engineer (VCE)."

ARRL VCs are fellow amateurs who are attorneys. They have agreed to provide a free initial consultation to hams facing town zoning issues related to the erection of Amateur Radio towers and antennas. ARRL VCEs are registered Professional Engineers (PE) who have likewise agreed to give hams an initial consultation when facing antenna support installation issues required by the town.

Henderson notes that VCs and VCEs provide their initial consult for free: "If you do need to retain them further to help you navigate through the 'red tape,' you need to be prepared to pay them for their professional services, though many VCs and VCEs do provide discounted rates if they assist long term."

The role of the VC and VCE is to assist amateurs with antenna and zoning issues, but Henderson said that some provide advice on other topics, such as helping a club through the process of incorporating, or a VCE serving as an expert witness before a town zoning meeting. "When facing an antenna fight, remember that VCs and VCEs -- along with other resources -- are there to assist you, but their role is secondary to yours," Henderson advised. "The amateur seeking to erect the tower has to take the lead, making sure that all required information from the town is provided promptly and as required. This includes bearing any costs associated with the permitting process or legal fees. If you follow the steps required by the city or town, and you don't take any shortcuts and are reasonable in your approach, you should end up prevailing in the end."

The ARRL is looking for qualified and interested attorneys and registered Professional Engineers to step forward to serve as VCs and VCEs. "There is no better time to consider serving in these important but unsung volunteer positions than now," Henderson said. Right now, the ARRL has VCs in only 44 states and VCEs in 33 states. Applications for VCs www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/vcapp.html and VCEs

www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/vceapp.html can be found online on the ARRL Web site. For more information on how you can assist as a VC or VCE, contact Henderson via e-mail n1nd@arrl.org.

If you need the services of a VC or VCE to help with your zoning problem, contact the Regulatory Information desk via e-mail reginfo@arrl.org. "We are happy to help you sort through the first steps or try to hook you up with a nearby VC or VCE. The ARRL VC/VCE programs are here to serve you, but we need your help."

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$25 for individual membership, \$30 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, call (510) 233-7509, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.eastbayarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The East Bay Amateur Radio Club maintains a club station, W6CUS, at 3200 Macdonald Ave., Richmond. The packet station, W6CUS-1, is on 145.630 Mhz, and is linked to the EAST BAY LAN (EBAY) on 223.720 Mhz.

2008 EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jack Burris, K6JEB, President & W6CUS Trustee	415-305-2547
"Texx" Woodworth, KG6ATH, 1 st VP - Program Chair.....	524-7452
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, 2 nd VP – Hospitality Chair, Education Chair...	526-4089
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 rd VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
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Social & Digital Committees Chair.....	
Legislative Affairs	
RFI Committee Chair.....	
Historian	
Mark O'Brien, AF6FR, af6fr@yahoo.com , Ride Coordinator.....	650-776-1817

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO RACES/ARES Net	Thurs	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Tech Net	Thurs	2000 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Northern Calif. Net VHF Session	Daily	1930 (PL 107.2-)	145.410
"Going Home Group"	Mo-Fr	1600 (PL 82.5-)	145.110

Asst. EC West CoCoCo: Mike McMillan, K6MCM, mcmillan50y@yahoo.com, phone 510 223-3052.
Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s, www.cc-races.org.